Motor vehicle sales in the NT fell slightly last month, by 1.9%, but the Territory recorded the second highest annual growth in monthly trend sales for the year to July 2004.

ABS data shows that Territory motor vehicle sales for the period increased by 11.3%. Queensland had the highest growth of 11.7%.

Comparing the year to July 2003 with the year to July 2004, there was a 7.9% increase in Territory vehicle sales, going from 7776 to 8389.

“Year on year growth of motor vehicle sales has been improving for 25 consecutive months, reflecting the strengthening of the Territory economy,” Treasurer Syd Stirling said.

“In the year to July 2004, sales to Territory rental companies alone were up by 19.1%, providing further evidence of the recovery in tourism-related activity.

“While the July figures were not great, possibly reflecting strong ‘end of financial year’ sales in June, motor vehicle sales are still growing strongly after a low point in mid-2001.”